

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 07414 021639Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 NSCE-00  
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O R 0921518Z DEC 77  
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, SY  
SUBJ: SYRIAN MEDIA ON THE TRIPOLI SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY: DEC MEDIA PREDICTABLY LED WITH WHAT IS TERMED IN AL-BAATH HEADLINE AS THE "TRIPARTITE SUMMIT" IN TRIPOLI. PHOTOS SPLASHED ON FRONT PAGE OF QADDHAFI GREETING ASSAD AND ASSAD TALKING TO ARAB PRESS. VIRTUALLY ALL EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARY PLATITUDES, EXPRESSING MORE HOPE THAN CONFIDENCE OF SUCCESS. FEW PREDICTIONS WERE MADE AS TO WHAT WOULD EMERGE FROM THE MEETINGS, REFLECTING THE DIFFERENCES WHICH SEPARATE SYRIA AND  
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THE PLO FROM THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS REGARDING ULTIMATE AIMS. SEVERAL EDITORIALS NOTED THE NECESSITY FOR THE MEETING TO INSURE CONCRETE ACTIONS TO MOBILIZE THE ARAB MASSES RATHER THEN MERELY DRAWING UP "RESOLUTIONS WHICH REMAIN ON PAPER." END SUMMARY.

2. THAWRA'S LEAD ARTICLE DEC 2 QUOTE "INFORMED SOURCES"

AS SAYING: "THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE WILL DISCUSS IN SOME DETAIL THE MEANS AND POTENTIALS REQUIRED TO REVIVE THE EASTERN FRONT." THESE SOURCES GO ON TO SAY THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL ALSO "FOCUS ON PROVIDING ALL MEANS OF SUPPORT AND STEADFASTNESS TO SYRIA SINCE IT CONSTITUTES THE CORNERSTONE OF THE ARAB CONFERENCE." THESE ARE MOST SPECIFIC REMARKS ABOUT SYRIA AIMS AT CONFERENCE CONTAINED IN DEC 2 PRESS.

3. THAWRA'S FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT CONFRONTING "THE ZIONIST ENEMY AND SADAT'S COLLUSION" WON'T COME ABOUT BY MERELY ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS EVEN IF THE CONFREES ARE AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL. THE CONFERENCE IS CALLED UPON TO COME UP WITH PRATICAL PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING ANY DECISONS REACHED. EFFECTIVE ACTION IS VIEWED AS COMING ABOUT THROUGH MOBILIZING THE ARAB PEOPLE "IN BRINGING DOWN THE SUBMISSIVE REVISIONISM OF SADAT AND EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWS HIS PARTH."

4. AL-BAATH LEAD EDITORIAL ON THE TRIPOLI SUMMIT CLAIMED THAT THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE NEEDS TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF "OPTIMISM AND HOPE" IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES SINCE EGYPE, WITH ITS TRADITIONS DEEPLY ROOTED IN STRUGGLE AND WITH THE HERITAGE OF NASSAR, IS STILL CAPABLE OF STOPPING THE DETERIORATION SADAT IS CAUSING. TRIPOLI IS CALLED UPON TO COME UP WITH CLEAR CONCEPTIONS TO MEET THE DANGERS POSED BY SADAT'S ACTIONS.

5. TISHRIIN ACCUSED SADAT OF IMPLEMENTING "AMERICAN-ISRAELI DESIGNS," AND THEREBY DOING A DISSERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEACE IN THE ME. IT DECLARED THAT EVERYONE CONCERNED WITH A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION HAS A RIGHT "TO FEEL DISAPPOINTED BY THE US, THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE." HOWEVER, IT CLAIMS THAT WHAT THE US IS DOING "IS NOT ALIEN TO THE NATURE OF AMERICAN AIMS WHICH ARISE FROM AMERICA'S SPECIAL INTERESTS IN THE AREA AND FROM ITS STRONG LINKS WITH ISRAEL. THE US COULD NOT HAVE REACED THIS DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN REALIZING ISRAEL' ( MOST CHERISHED ASPIRATIONS HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR SADAT'S DEFEATISM AND HIS SUBMISSION TO AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND ZIONIST AMBITIONS." EDITORIAL OPINED THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION MAY BE GAMBLING EVERYTHING IN THE ME WHEN IT TRIES TO PROMOTE PARTIAL AND SEPARTATE SOLU- TIONS AND WHEN IT SEEKS TO IMPOSE ON THE ARABS WHAT THEY CANNOT ACCEPT.

6. NEWS ANALYSES CONTINUED TO DENOUNCE SADAT'S ACTIONS AS "HIGH TREASON" AND "COLLUDING AND PLOTTING WITH ISRAEL." PRESS GENERALLY SPEAKS OF "SADAT" OR THE "SADAT REGIME" AND CONFIDENCE IS EXPRESSED THAT THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE WILL WORK TOEND THE PLOT.

7. COMMENT: MEDIA TREATMENT OF TRIPOLI CONFERENCE DOES NOT RAISE HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND IS CHARACTERIZED MORE BY HOPE THAN ASSURANCE. THE DREAM OF REVIVING AN EASTERN FRONT IS JUST THAT-A DREAM--WITH JORDAN NOT ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE AND THE DUBIOUS LIKELIHOOD THAT ASSAD WOULD ALLOW ANY SIGNIFICANT IRAQI CONTIGENTS TO ENTER SYRIA. ON THE OTHER HAND, SYRIA MAY BE HOPING FOR SOME ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT FROM LIBYA WITH ITS SURPLUS OF CASH AND MILITARY HARDWARE. IF PRESS IS ANY INDICATION, HOWEVER, IT LOOKS LIKE SYRIA DOES NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT IT WANTS IN PRACTICAL TERMS FROM TRIPOLI.

MURPHY

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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